

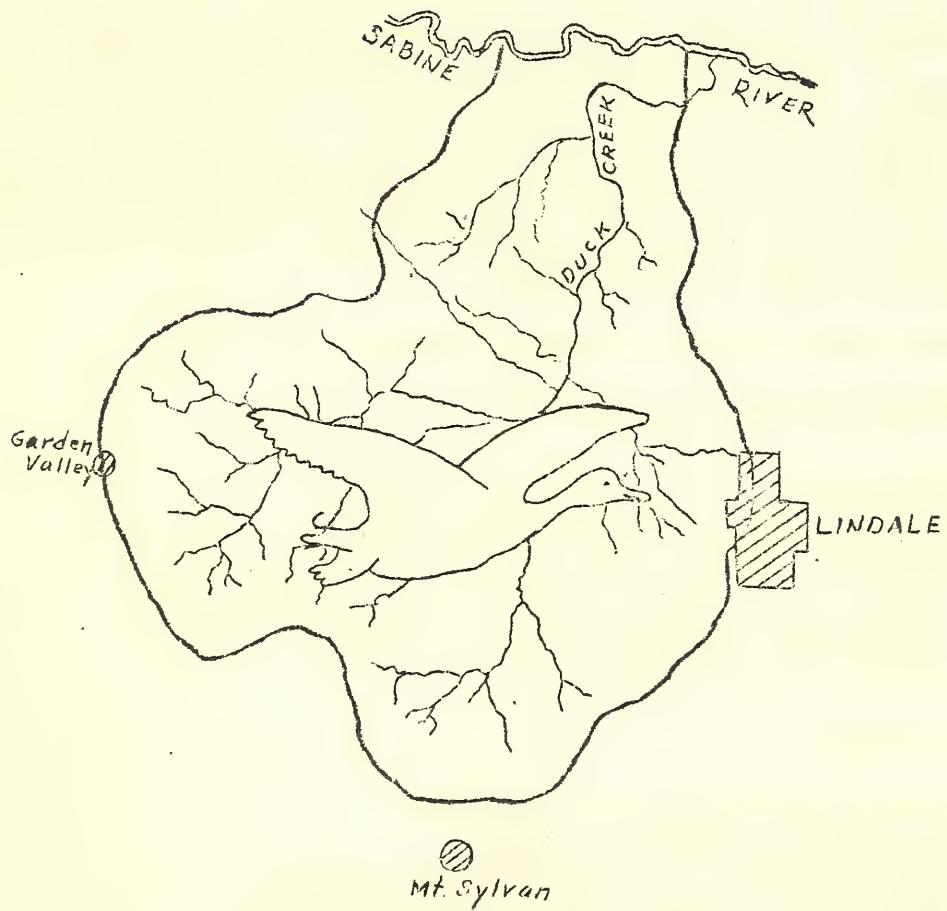
## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



# DUCK~CREEK~NEWS

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR  
SOIL EROSION SERVICE  
Project No. 20  
LINDALE, TEXAS



SEP 20 1934

## AGREEMENTS BEING SIGNED

After weeks of work making surveys, plans and general "getting ready," the signing of agreements between the Soil Erosion Service and cooperating farmers is under way. Messrs. Rosborough, Nagle and Porter are highly pleased with the welcome which they are receiving. All indications are that the percentage of cooperators throughout the watershed will be very high.

## GETTING READY FOR WORK

As soon as your cooperative agreement has been signed, be sure to see Mr. Rosborough, Nagle or Porter about what you can do to get ready for work on your farm. A few hours of work getting ready may save considerable delay in getting the work started on your place.

## COMPLETE PROGRAM OF EROSION CONTROL METHODS

As you know, the Soil Erosion Service is insisting upon a COMPLETE program of work for every farm on which ANY work is done. For instance, we will not come to your farm to do terracing only, for experience shows that, valuable and important as it is, terracing alone under our conditions of slope, soil types, rainfall, etc., will not give complete protection to your land. Our farms have already eroded so badly that we cannot afford to lose another ton of soil from them if it can be prevented, so it is only reasonable that we should use every practical, workable method available to hold the soil where it belongs--on our fields. The best way of getting what we want - complete erosion control - is by the use of a combination of all the good methods.

## ADVANTAGES OF EACH PART OF COMPLETE PROGRAM

### I. Permanent Pasture Development

- a. Gives almost perfect erosion control.
- b. Holds moisture on land where needed.
- c. Provides cheapest feed for livestock.
- d. Grass and legume roots add organic matter to soil.
- e. Legumes add nitrogen, making soil more fertile.
- f. Lends itself to balanced farm program.
- g. Assists in reducing floods.

### II. Reforestation

- a. Gives excellent erosion control.
- b. Adds organic matter to soil.
- c. Provides posts and farm building material.
- d. Provides for future income from saw timber.
- e. Provides shelter for game.
- f. Provides fuel for home use and for sale.
- g. Assists in flood control.

III. Crop Rotation

- a. Enables farmer to maintain and even build up fertility of soil.
- b. Aids in preventing soil erosion.
- c. Aids in keeping down insect pests.
- d. Aids in controlling plant diseases.
- e. Assists in building up per acre yields and improves quality of products.
- f. Lessens chances of complete crop failure.
- g. Allows more even distribution of labor throughout the year.
- h. Provides more feed for livestock.
- i. Farmer has returns from cotton crop in clear.

IV. Strip Cropping

- a. Reduces erosion by:
  - 1. Providing closer cover for ground.
  - 2. Reducing cultivated area of field.
  - 3. Acting as absorbent for rainfall.
  - 4. Spreading and checking water which collects in rivulets.
  - 5. The thicker root growth aid in holding the soil.
  - 6. Filters out soil carried by water from above.
- b. Provides more feed.
- c. Assists in rotating crops.
- d. Helps to eliminate short rows.
- e. Improves the soil if a legume is used.
- f. Gives excellent support to terraces.

V. Contour Cultivation

- a. Aids in controlling runoff of water.
- b. Aids in controlling erosion.
- c. Causes more water to soak into the ground.

VI. Terracing

- a. Aids in preventing erosion by checking runoff water.
- b. Aids in diversion of water to proper outlets.

VII. Contour Furrowing of Pastures

- a. Holds water on ground so it can soak in.
- b. Holds soil in place; prevents erosion.
- c. Furnishes place where plants may catch and grow.

VIII. Gully Control

- a. Makes cultivation of farm easier.
- b. Prevents growth of gullies and resultant losses of soil.
- c. Improves appearance of farm.
- d. Increases land values.

## IX. Gopher Eradication

- a. Removes pests which
  - 1. Destroy thousands of dollars worth of crops annually.
  - 2. Damage pasture growth.
  - 3. Cause terrace breaks.
  - 4. Cause gullies to start.

## X. Game Conservation

- a. Helps preserve species which benefit farmer by:
  - 1. Destroying insects and weed seeds.
  - 2. Furnishing a not inconsiderable source of food.
  - 3. Making any section a more pleasant place to live.
  - 4. Furnishing recreation; as, hunting.
  - 5. May add to farm income through sale of hunting privileges.

## XI. Farm Planning

- a. Reduces number of small irregular fields or patches.
- b. Makes cultivation easier.
- c. Reduces labor costs.
- d. Improves appearance of farm.
- e. Reduces number of crossfences and lanes, thus,
  - 1. Reduces cost of fence maintenance.
  - 2. Returns good land to cultivation.

The above points are advantages of the complete erosion control program as it is being put into effect in the Duck Creek watershed. The same advantages will be found wherever they are put in use anywhere in the 33,000,000 acres in East Texas, Northwest Louisiana, Southern Arkansas, or Southeastern Oklahoma, which the Duck Creek demonstration represents.

The three ultimate goals of the Soil Erosion Service program are to:

- 1. Control erosion, so the soil may be saved for use not only by the present, but by future generations.
- 2. Reduce floods which cause immense damage in loss of life and destruction of property.
- 3. Reorganize land use, to prevent surplus production, give the farmer a better income and provide him more of the advantages and comforts which should be his.

## MEETINGS

To date four meetings have been held at each of six communities in the Duck Creek Area. At these meetings soil erosion, strip cropping, rotation, permanent pastures, reforestation and gully control have been discussed. Attendance at these meetings has been fine, and we want you to continue coming to every one that you can possibly attend. Our

purpose in holding these meetings is to give every person in the Area first-hand information about the erosion control program, for we are sure that when you understand it, you will be for it one hundred per cent. Be sure to come to the meetings!

-S.E.S.-

"My children have got to have some place to get their bread and meat, so I'm trying to keep my hundred acres from washing away. I'm with the Soil Erosion Service on anything they do," says I. L. Pool of the Harris Chapel community.

-S.E.S.-

"My farm is worth more to me today than it was before the Soil Erosion Service started its work," stated Bragg Morris, negro farmer of Friendship Community, on whose farm the first construction work was done.

-S.E.S.-

Less than two and one-half per cent of the farmers stated that they were not interested in the Soil Erosion Service program when the economic survey was made.

-S.E.S.-

"The requirements of a good farmer are at least four:

1. To rear a family carefully and well.
2. To make two blades of grass grow where one grew before.
3. To be of good service to his community.
4. To leave his farm better than he found it."

L. H. Bailey.

-S.E.S.-

Be sure to see the Soil Erosion Service Exhibit at the East Texas Fair, Tyler, September 24 to 29.

